

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces any earlier listing:

Claims 1-6 (cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A particle for producing a three-dimensional object by means of layer-building processes, comprising

- a core of at least a first material,
- a first coating on the core with a second material, which is polar, and
- a second coating on the first coating,

~~wherein the first coating is a material different from said core, the first coating is polar,~~
and the thickness of the first coating corresponds to 0.1 to 10% of the a mean particle radius, and

wherein the second coating is formed from surfactant, the thickness of which corresponds to a monolayer of the surfactant.

8. (Previously Presented) The particle as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first coating and the second coating are soluble in water or an aqueous solution but the core is not.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a three-dimensional object, including the following steps:

- applying a layer of particles to a target surface,
- irradiating a selected part of the layer, corresponding to a cross-section of the object, with an energy beam, so that the particles are joined in the selected part,
- repeating the application and irradiation steps for a plurality of layers, so that the joined parts of the adjacent layers are joined together in order to form the object,

wherein

- the particles are ~~particles to whose outer surface a surfactant has been~~ according to claim 7 are applied.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) A process for producing a three-dimensional object, including the following steps:

- applying a layer of particles to a target surface,
- printing a liquid in which at least parts of the particles are soluble onto a selected part of the layer, corresponding to a cross-section of the object, so that the particles are joined in the selected part,
- repeating the application and printing steps to form a plurality of layers, so that the joined parts of the adjacent layers are joined together in order to form the object,
wherein
- the particles are ~~particles to whose outer surface a surfactant has been~~ according to claim 7 are applied.

12-14. (Cancelled)